

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings (3) include changes to Figs. 2, 15 and 16. These sheets, which include Figs. 1, 2, 15 and 16, replace the original sheets including Figs. 1, 2, 15 and 16.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets (3)

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the specification, various paragraphs have been amended to correct minor editorial problems and to revise the specification for closer compliance with U.S. patent practice and procedure.

The drawings have been objected to as containing informalities; Claims 8-28 and 30-32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being vague and indefinite; Claims 1, 7-8, 14-15, 21-22 and 28-32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Kuwajima et al. '064; Claims 4-6, 11-13, 18-20 and 25-27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Kuwajima et al. '064; and Claims 2-3, 9-10, 16-17 and 23-24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Kuwajima et al. '064 in view of Sato (JP 09-082052). Claims 1-32 remain active.

Considering first then the Examiner's objections to the drawings, it is to be noted that the electrically conductive coating comprises coating 23 which is mentioned on page 27, line 23 through page 28, line 15 in the specification with Figure 2 now being properly labeled to illustrate this coating 23. It is further noted that reference numbers 32 and 66 have now been added to pages 20 and 28 of the specification for compliance with U.S. patent practice and procedure. Regarding Figures 15 and 16, reference number 9 has been corrected as requested by the Examiner and Figures 15 and 16 have now been properly labeled as "Prior Art" as required by the Examiner.

Considering first then the rejection of Claims 8-28 and 30-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, it is to be noted that the claims have now been amended so as to properly respond to the Examiner's comments by claiming that the center of mass is the center of a load beam. Accordingly, it is submitted that each of the claims noted above now fully comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Next considering then the rejection of Claims 1, 7-8, 14-15, 21-22 and 28-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Kuwajima et al. '064, Applicants note that Kuwajima et al. includes a support arm 2 which supports a floating type slider. In this apparatus, a pair of bosses 11a and 11b and a plate spring 4 comprise a floating structure which allows the support arm to swing. However, Kuwajima et al. '064 fails to teach or suggest that the support arm 2 is separated into a load beam and a head arm as claimed in Claims 1, 8, 15 or 22 as now amended. Accordingly, it is submitted that Kuwajima et al. '064 fails to teach that a load is applied to the load beam at a predetermined position near a position at which the load beam is supported by the head arm. By providing such structure, as described at page 26, line 11 through page 27, line 18, the mass suspended by the spring (i.e. the total mass of the load beam 22 and the parts attached thereto) below the elastically deformable portion 56 can be reduced. In addition, the impact resistance of the magnetic head apparatus 20 in accordance with the present invention does not depend on the length of the head arm and substantially is not dependent on the weight of the head arm. More particularly, such does not depend on the size of the recording medium.

In the apparatus in accordance with Kuwajima et al. '064, if the load applying position does not coincide with the center of mass in a precise manner in the case of a large diameter recording medium, it is possible that the impact resistance is reliant on the weight of the support arm. To the contrary, since the mass suspended by the spring below the elastically deformable portion can be reduced in accordance with the present invention as now claimed, the impact resistance can be maintained constant irrespective of the weight of the head arm (i.e. support arm).

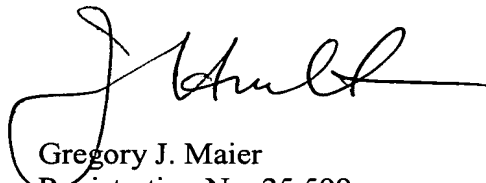
In view of the foregoing comments and in view of the limitations now set forth in each of the independent claims, it is submitted that such claims as well as all claims

dependent therefrom patentably define over Kuwajima et al. and the remaining references of record.

Considering next then the rejection of Claims 4-6, 11-13, 18-20 and 25-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Kuwajima et al. '064 and the rejection of Claims 2-3, 9-10, 16-17 and 23-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Kuwajima et al. '064 in view of Sato (JP 09-082052) it is submitted that Sato et al. fails to rectify the deficiencies noted hereinabove with regard to Kuwajima et al. Furthermore, it is submitted that each of the above-noted dependent claims contain limitations having no corresponding teaching or disclosure in Kuwajima et al. '064 or in Sato and thus merit allowability. In view of this and in view of the foregoing arguments with respect to the patentability of each of independent Claims 1, 8, 15 and 22, favorable reconsideration in this application is believed to be in order and the same is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Registration No. 25,599

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

GJM:JDH\la
I:\ATTY\JDH\239689US-AM2.DOC

James D. Hamilton
Registration No. 28,421
Attorneys of Record